

GRACE ALONE

The Twenty-Fourth and Last of the Articles by Dr. J. R. Lavik,
Luther Seminary, Saskatoon

THE COMMON AND THE IMPERSONAL

In what ways, then, are we most in danger of sinning against grace, even to the extent of falling from grace?

Perhaps first of all by letting grace become something common, something that we just take for granted. It is very easy to yield to the disposition to just assume that we of course are the children of God, for we were saved once, we have not turned our backs upon God, we are living in grace and daily receive the forgiveness of all our sins. But this attitude of taking for granted involves very real dangers to our spiritual life. Thereby we may conveniently avoid these deep searchings of heart and life in the light of the Word to which the Holy Spirit would daily lead us. Thereby conscience may be suffused with superficial piety, and its warnings silenced. The sinning against grace which results may easily and naturally become a sinning unto death.

There is the danger of grace becoming for us not much more than a mental abstraction, a mere idea, and consequently quite impersonal. When Christianity becomes impersonal it is no longer truly Christian. It has lost its dynamic truth, its reality, its power. Grace is not a thing by itself, not an entity like a stone or a piece of wood, or money you have in your pocket. Grace is God dealing with us under the cross of Christ. To live in grace is to live in God's favor and in vital fellowship with Him. If it is turned into a mental abstraction, or simply a point of doctrine, it is no longer the grace of God. Perhaps especially pastors and teachers, and most of all theological professors, are seriously exposed to this danger. The difficulty with mental abstractions is that they lack personal reality; they may obscure the personality of God; they may conveniently be used as bushes behind which we try to hide ourselves and our sins from God. Nothing is more important in Christian life than to retain the consciousness of standing personally, individually, before God. The point of deepest sensitivity in that consciousness is conscience. Therefore, the awakened conscience, the always wide awake conscience, must be at the center of our personal relationship with God. Hiding sin, compromising with sin, dulls the edge of conscience. When the Spirit is permitted to lead us to honestly confess our sins before God, this increases the sensitivity of conscience. It is the awakened conscience that needs grace, that yearns for grace, and profits by the gifts of grace.

This brings us to a third way in which we are in danger of sinning mortally against grace. It is at those points in our daily lives when we come to a clear choice between sin and grace. We shall realize this more if we have definitely in mind what it involves. The choice between sin and grace is very personal, not just a choice between conflicting ideas, not just a choice by one person alone, but a personal choice we make for or against God, or in scriptural terminology, between God and Satan. There come situations in life when the choice becomes very clear and definite. The one who then knowingly and wilfully rejects God's grace and chooses the way of sin, has thereby

so sinned against God as to have fallen from grace. The sin against the Holy Spirit, the unforgivable sin, is this choice made so clearly, definitely and blasphemously that the voice of conscience has forever been silenced. Thereby it has become impossible for the Spirit "to renew them again unto repentance." (Heb. 6:6).

On the other hand, the one who at these danger points definitely chooses grace, becomes by the power of the Holy Spirit more thoroughly established in grace. Each such choice marks a positive step forward on the way of sanctification. In the words of Hebrews 13:9, "It is a good thing that the heart be established by grace." We realize the significance of this statement when we remember that the heart is the center of our personal life, which is the God-given power of free choice. Following faithfully and obediently this course the Christian is constantly entering more and more into "the glorious liberty of the children of God." (Rom. 8:21).

CAMROSE CIRCUIT LUTHER CONVENTION

"Behold Christ Crucified," was the theme about which the Camrose Circuit Luther Leaguers centered their annual convention, which was held at Provost, Alberta, November 17-19.

Pastor Arnold Hagen of Prince Albert, Sask., was the convention speaker. He brought many heart searching messages, challenging each Leaguer to accept the forgiveness made possible through Christ's death on the cross, and then live this forgiveness so that others may behold Christ crucified in our lives.

Others participating in the convention program were Pastors Palmer Olson, Provost, and R. O. Olson, Armena, who conducted Bible studies; Margaret Collin, Ella Loken and Doreen Johnson were speakers on the panel discussion. Pastor R. O. Olson delivered the Communion service address and Pastor K. C. Grundahl, Camrose, the message for the Sunday morning worship service.

The new executive is as follows: President, Nelvin Thronson; vice-president, Alvin Rude; recording secretary, Norman Moe; corresponding secretary, Ioan Bernhardson; treasurer, Norman Grue; Echo editor, Eric Pederson; assistant editor, Lorraine Scotvold; P.T.L. secretary, Ken Paulgaard; junior intermediate secretary, Margaret Lovrud; choral union director, Cliff Hoyme; board of directors, Theol Watland, Betty McKay, Mike Stolee, Milton Mosand, Edwin Grue, Pastor R. O. Olson.

The convention was well attended with representatives from most of the locals . . . from C.L.B.I., faculty and students from C.L.C., and from the Luther Seminary, Saskatoon. This year's convention was unique in that four members of the District L.L. executive were present.

We thank God for the blessings received through this convention and thank the Provost League for their hospitality. May we Leaguers as we "Behold Christ Crucified" allow God's Spirit to freely work through us in His Word and winning young people for Christ!

Some people fight for their own opinions under the impression that they are defending the Almighty.

Awaiting Christ's Coming

Heb. 10:35-39

Second Sunday in Advent

Advent is here —that expectation season each year when we are in a particular way reminded of the coming of our Lord, first as Saviour, and finally as He who shall come to judge the quick and the dead! Yes, He has come, through the Word and Sacraments. He is continually coming, and He will come! But, my friends, what does it all mean to you? Are you awaiting his coming?

The basic truth of Christianity is as our text asserts: "The Just Shall Live by Faith." The atoning sacrifice of Christ for our sins, and the need for each to appropriate by faith His finished work unto the salvation of one's soul and the forgiveness of sin is fundamental, without which all else we may have falls to the ground! But, besides this, there are other truths of the Christian faith which need reaffirmation, which I fear are not held forth as much as they ought, and yet they are truths which perhaps more than anything else will keep a Christian on an even keel; act as a spur and incentive to holy living; challenge him to live and to give himself unstintingly to Christ and His cause; engender in him a real understanding and appreciation of what it really means to be saved. I have in mind the essential work of the Holy Spirit in the Church and each individual life; the fact and fruits of the Resurrection; and the hope of His coming again! God, in His Word, surely uses these as a powerful spur to holy living, consecrated work, and aspiring hope!

The author of Hebrews has spent considerable time (chapters 7:1-10:18) establishing that which is basic to our Christian faith, namely the atonement, Christ shedding His Blood, "A Sacrifice Made Once and Forever for All Sin." From this sure foundation

work they have done in their forty years of service. The financing of the church building is largely credited to the Ladies' Aid, besides remembering annually the needs of our institutions, missions and other benevolences.

With the exception of two groups, each confirmation class since 1912 brought a greeting. Those representing their classes were: Mrs. L. Satre, Mrs. J. Halvorson, Mr. Norman Fluevog, Mr. Torleif Larson, Mr. Knute Gulbraa, Mr. Carl Gulbraa, Mr. Ralph Erickson, Miss Solveig Steffenson, Mrs. George Pedel, Mrs. Carl Gulbraa, Miss Lilly Nelson, Mr. Gordon Holinger, Miss Norma Likness.

The offering for the afternoon was sent to Rev. Hjortaas of Calgary, who was the first pastor at Sharon.

Charter members of the congregation were Mr. J. B. Gulbraa, Mr. Joe Gulbraa, Mr. O. Steffenson, Mr. E. Erickson, Mrs. Anna Larson, Mrs. Jennia Larson, Mr. Olgan Paulson, Mr. J. M. Peterson, six of whom were present.

Evangelist Nils Pederson commenced a week of evangelistic services in the evening. It is the prayer of those of us who were along in the festivities that God's gracious hand many continue to lead in the work. The heritage that we have in our church is augmented by witnessing a day such as this.

—C. S.

LUTHER LEAGUE NEWS

Bentley Luther League has sent in \$35.00 to the Youth in Action Project which puts them on the honor roll.

—Mrs. Wm. D. Allan.

tion he launches out earnestly admonishing them to enter with boldness into the presence of a Holy God by the shed blood of Jesus Christ (v. 19-25); warning them of the danger of counting His Sacrifice as unimportant and non-essential (let the modernistic churches of our day take note of this) which if we trample underfoot the sacrifice of His Son then there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin, but a fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation from the hands of a Holy and Righteous God (v. 26-31). In the light of all this, that which they had already received and experienced in Christ, the fearful holiness of a living God, and particularly Christ's Coming Again, he writes to them the words of our text, exhorting them to cast away their confidence, continue steadfast unto the end, which alone will assure them of "receiving the promise," and escaping "perdition!"

It is to Christians who had already met many a severe test of their faith that he writes, as "those who had endured a great conflict of sufferings" (v. 32-34), things which they had undergone for their love of Christ, without growing discouraged, wavering or giving up! There is grave danger taking one's Christianity for granted, going soft, so that there isn't that fresh, eager, fervent love and enthusiasm evidenced so often and in those newly saved. Yes, while it is true that as we grow up in Christ our faith and its expressions in life take on a mature and stabilized quality, yet how are Church and the age in which we live could well afford to be blessed with more of that spirit-born daring love, wreckless zeal, fiery enthusiasm, flaming vision, burning restlessness, so often characteristic of babes in Christ! Wasn't it the loss of this spirit in the Church of Ephesus, busy as they were going through the chores of church activities, to whom Jesus says: "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." (Rev. 2:1ffg). The author of Hebrews says to these Christians, thus far "you have done the will of God," and God has but one mind, or will, and that is "that all men might come to the knowledge of the Truth and be saved." (I Tim. 2:4; Job 23:13). But, he goes on to say, there is need for you to re-evaluate that which you now have in Christ and that which lies in store for you at His coming again, lest you grow weary, tend to give up, and thus draw back unto the eternal perdition of their souls! Thus he uses the hope of Christ's coming again, which is the fruit of faith and the very life-blood of one's Christian life (v. 37) to bolster their confidence to inspire faith, and as a stimulant to their patience that they may continue to the end unto the saving of their souls!

But to those who have not permitted God to work out His will in their hearts there remaineth no such hope! Instead for the unsaved there is that high cost of piling up sin upon sin, wrath upon wrath, bursting forth in that terrible cry of fear and agony as when they see Him come in the clouds with power and great glory they shall cry unto the mountains and hills to cover them for fear of Him that cometh. (Lk. 23:30). The overall price of all that you give up and suffer for the sake of Christ is as nothing, but a particle of dust on the scale of God's infinite love, reaching out in Christ to make you rich now, and blessed for all eternity! Yes, are you awaiting His Coming??

—R. O. O.

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 THE WADENA NEWS

We have to use part of this editorial again to make an appeal for Lutheran World Action. Our fiscal year closes December 31, 1950 and that means we have only a very short time left. We have a long way to go. We know that there are many demands. However, the need is also so tremendous for our brethren across the sea that we must do what we can. There are a number of congregations that have done nothing so far, and many are below their allocation. May the Lord bless this ingathering for our stricken and needy brethren across the sea!

We are living in troublous times. So many very unusual things happen. It causes sober thinking, realizing that we may be living in the very shadow of the end-time. It is to be an unusual time. In this time of advent we do well to let the Word of God search our hearts to learn whether we are ready for that great day when Christ comes. Surely God's children should be awake in this day! And those who do not belong to Him must turn now while the door of grace and mercy is open.

BOOK REVIEW

"Select Sketches" by N. N. Ronning, The North Press, Faribault, Minn.

This tireless writer with a number of books to his credit, though perhaps not as well known to readers of The Shepherd as his merits deserve, has collected some of his shorter sketches into a small book with the above title. They cover a wide range of subjects and have the merit of brevity. There are nature sketches such as "The Lure of the Mountains," "Magic of the Snow," "The Brook that Sought the Sea," maybe the list also should include: "It's Our Secret." The outstanding feature of the book is however the character sketches such as "My Mother," "The King of Story Tellers," of Dr. L. W. Boe, once president of St. Olaf College, of the intrepid pioneer Home Missionary, Foss, and his many adventures on his field in the State of Washington. It is a record of devotion to duty, courage and resourcefulness. There is a sympathetic sketch of Homme Home for Indian Children in Wisconsin with the title, "They do not speak for themselves." There are several humorous sketches that make enjoyable reading. This includes "Learning a New Language," "A Contrary-Minded Creature," and "So You Are Going to Decorah." Would-be writers will find helpful suggestions in "The Pleasure of Finding the Right Word." The last in the collection is an evaluation of the apostle Paul under the title: "Has Paul a Message for Our Day?" It is not a theological treatise but should appeal to mature minds who give thought to the present chaotic situation in the world.

Two of the sketches stand out as really fine literature: "My Mother," and "The Brook that Sought the Sea." They touch hidden heart strings. The book is not only suitable for general reading but is especially to be commended to Luther League and Young People's libraries; with such a book

Double Funeral for Pioneer Couple



MR. AND MRS. ABRAHAM JERSTAD

The late Mr. Abraham Jerstad, pioneer resident of the Donalda district, passed away quietly at the Wetaskiwin Community Hospital on Friday evening, November 3, 1950, at the age of 94 years and 29 days.

Mr. Jerstad was born at Viksdalen Sonfjord, Norway on October 5, 1856. He came to America in 1881, and worked at various places and then settled in South Dakota.

The late Mrs. Mary Olson Jerstad passed away quietly at the Eventide Home in Wetaskiwin on Tuesday morning, November 7, 1950, at the age of 82 years, eight months and 17 days.

Mrs. Jerstad was born at Viksdalen Sonfjord Norway, on February 21, 1866.

On June 24, 1894, Abraham Jerstad and Mary Olson were united in marriage at Campbell County, South Dakota. They resided there until 1903 when they moved to Alberta and then settled on a homestead six miles north of the present site of Donalda.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerstad were one of the early members of the Bethany congregation and during the early years in this community the Jerstad home was often used for church services. Throughout the many years until 1935 when they retired from the farm, Mr. and Mrs. Jerstad were always willing to do their share in

at hand one can always find an appropriate selection for a program reading.

Canadian readers will doubtless be able to secure copies at The Bible Institute Bookstore, Outlook, Sask. The price is \$1.00.

—O. A. B.

Jul I Vesterheimen, Published by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This is the Norwegian "Christmas Annual." Again we have devotional articles, stories and sketches. There are also poems of great value. If you have friends who love the Norwegian language, it will make a fine Christmas gift — or an after-Christmas gift.

There are beautiful pictures and is a work of art. Among the names of the writers we find names such as H. E. Jorgenson, Jr., Smedal, Windahl, Brandt, E. Welle Strand, Rothnem, Fuhr, Baun and Westnes. It costs only one dollar but it is worth much more.

A Childs Need to Pray, Grace Noll Crowell.

The name Grace Noll Crowell tells us that here is something warm and beautiful expressed in words that rest the soul. There are 33 poems. The illustrations by Lee Mero will give children delight for many hours. Beautiful, too, is the words of dedication:

"Dedicated to those little ones of whom the Master said, 'Of such is the Kingdom . . .'"
 Christ is central in this book of beautiful poems.

church and community endeavors.

After retiring from the farm, Mr. and Mrs. Jerstad lived for a short while at Vancouver, B.C., and later for a few years at Bawlf, Alberta. Since 1939 they have resided in Wetaskiwin, and for the last while lived with their daughter Alma, at the Eventide Home.

They are survived by five daughters and one son, 14 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

The children are: Sine, Mrs. George Quesseth, Salem, Oregon; Betsy, Mrs. B. A. Vikse, Donalda, Alberta; Alma, Mrs. Braa, Wetaskiwin, Alberta; Ida, Mrs. G. K. Kolkind, Whitehorse, Y.T.; Oscar of Edmonton, Alberta, and Clara, Mrs. A. Nepstad, Valhalla Centre, Alberta.

Mr. Jerstad is also survived by two sisters in Norway. Mrs. Jerstad by one sister, Mrs. Lena Anderson of Mobridge, South Dakota, U.S.A.

Short double funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon in Campbell's Funeral Home, Wetaskiwin. Rev. E. O. Walker conducting.

Double funeral services were also held in the Bethany Lutheran Church at Donalda, on Wednesday, November 8th.

Rev. E. O. Walker was in charge of the services, his text being, "If God be for us who can be against us." Rom. 8:31.

Rev. Rude assisted, his text, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Hebrews 4:9.

Mr. O. Broughton spoke a few words on behalf of the family and, "And I said unto Him, Sir, thou knowest. And He said to me, there are they which come out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the lamb." Rev. 7:14.

Mrs. Wilf. Anderson, Mrs. Hans Knudtson, and Mrs. Cliff Johnson sang a trio.

Honorary pallbearers were O. A. Broughton, O. H. Anderson, E. Knudtson, B. J. Stolee, Andrew Anderson, O. E. Olson, all old timers of the Donalda district.

Active pallbearers for Mr. Jerstad were A. Hoffman, K. Collin, A. Vikse,

Obituary

Christopher Petterson Mandt

Mr. Christopher Petterson Mandt of Estevan, Sask., was born in Houston County, Wisconsin, on October 1, 1870. As a young man he moved to MacIntosh, Minn., and then to Canada in 1902. He took a homestead near Bienfait, Sask. In 1908 he was married to Inga Farstad. Mr. and Mrs. Mandt moved to Estevan in 1936. He passed away October 19, 1950 in Estevan hospital.

Mr. Mandt was an active member of the congregations of Zion at Bienfait and Trinity at Estevan. He leaves to mourn, his widow, two sisters and one niece. May God bless his memory.

—G. H.

W. Edenloff, Alfred Anderson and Hans Halsiede.

Active pallbearers for Mrs. Jerstad were Gordon Knudtson, Hans Knudtson, Harold Edenloff, Angus Olson, Mike Stolee and Conrad Vikse.

Interment took place in the family plot in the Bethany Lutheran cemetery.

Memorials were given to Camrose Lutheran College, C.L.B.I., Calgary Lutheran Hour, Evangelical Lutheran Hour, Bethany Lutheran Church, Bethany Sunday School, Bethany Church Cemetery Fund, Donalda Lutheran Church Building Fund, Madagascar Mission, Cancer Fund, Bethany Sunset Home, Swedish Lutheran Home, Eventide Home. The total of memorials was \$177.00.

District News

Vig Congregation, Bentley, Alberta

On November 5th, Vig Congregation of Bentley was very privileged in having with them Pastor A. M. Vinge and a group of students from C.L.B.I., Camrose. Dorothy Vinge showed slides from her trip to Norway and Germany with a group of Lutheran students. The slides brought forth the destruction and the broken homes caused by the war and the desperate need for Lutheran World Action. Dorothy spoke very ably and enthusiastically about how God opened the way for her to go and how God led the whole group safely to their destination. She pointed out how their witness was made more effective by their physical labors, they worked right along with the German youth in rebuilding one of their dormitories. Surely the influence of this young band for Christ will have lasting effects on those with whom they come in contact.

At the close of the service an offering was received which put the congregation well over the top for Lutheran World Action. A donation of canned fruit was also sent to C.L.B.I. with Pastor Vinge.

—Mrs. Wm. D. Allan.

* * *

News from Edberg-Donalda Parish
 Alberta

About \$400.00 worth of clothing has been gathered for Lutheran World Relief in Europe. Four inspiring harvest festivals have been held in the parish with abundance of donations to all three institutions at Camrose. One truck of potatoes was delivered from Morrin. The Aids plan on renovating the interior of the parsonage.

The Shepherd has found its way into every home in the parish. It has been a thrill to throw oneself into these projects.

A youth rally with the Free Church Parish will be held at Bethany on December 3rd. In the evening Rev. Syrdal from St. Paul, Minn., will be the speaker.

* * *

Camrose Circuit Convention

The Camrose Circuit fall rally was held at Scandia Church at Armena, November 3rd to 5th. The theme was the Second Article. The speakers were Pastors Bergsagel, Rude, P. Olson, Stolee, Grundahl, Vinge and various laymen. Rev. Walker conducted the opening Bible studies. The attendance was good and God's Spirit was sensed. An increase of the budget was voted. Fifty per cent of the offering went to the president's house and 25 per cent is to be divided between Camrose College and the Bible School in Camrose. The rest is to be divided or used as needs present themselves to the executive. Grundahl was elected president; R. Olson as vice-president; Rude as secretary and P. Bergquist as treasurer.

—S. J. R.

Miss Bergliot Charstad, Saskatoon, has been appointed District Corresponding secretary by the Canada District Luther League executive. She will hold this position until the next District Biennial Convention.—N. F.

CIRCUIT MEETING

Ministers and laymen of the Swift Current Circuit met at Frontier, November 3-5 for the fall Circuit convention. Opening service was Friday at 11.00 a.m., by Pastor Salte. Visiting ministers were Pastors F. Haugen, Cabri; Pastor N. Salte, Admiral; and Pastor M. Knutson, Kyle.

On Sunday, November 5th, the Rev. M. Knutson conducted a memorial service for Sgt. Gordon O. Fengstad, killed in action in Korea on September 30th. The service was held at Bethel Church, Frontier. Present were the parents, Evangelist and Mrs. Fengstad, and all brothers and sister, except one.

The large attendance indicates the greatest possible tribute to the fallen hero and the deepest sympathy for the bereaved.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Canada is young and growing. Her present population is approximately fourteen million. Her tremendous wealth in soil, mine, lake and forest are attracting more and more people. It has been said that the world spotlight will be on Canada in the next 50 years.

Where does the Lutheran Church fit into this land of promise? Lutherans are a minority group in Canada, only 3.5 per cent of the total population being Lutherans. Lutherans are exceeded by Catholics (42%); United Church (19%); Anglicans (15%); Presbyterians (7%); Baptists (4%). Three-quarters of our Lutheran people live on farms.

However, in western Canada in the vast provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Lutherans are 10 per cent of the total, i.e., one out of every ten is a Lutheran. It is true that these are at the present time divided amongst ten Lutheran Synods, but there is a growing appreciation of our common Lutheran faith and our opportunity to share with our neighbors what God has given us.

Canada has been and continues to be a great home mission field. Sunday School at Home work was started as early as 1944 in Canada. In fact the Canadian church pioneered this work. Generally parishes have many congregations in them and are scattered widely. There are 413 Lutheran pastors in Canada serving 969 organized congregations and reaching out to 168 preaching places.

But the future is full of promise. Lutherans in Canada are an aggressive group. They build solidly; they maintain colleges at Waterloo, Ontario; Regina, Saskatchewan; Edmonton, Alberta; high schools at Regina, Outlook, Edmonton and Camrose; Bible schools at Outlook and Camrose, and seminaries at Saskatoon and Waterloo. You will find it interesting to locate these centres on a good map of Canada. These schools are graduating a continuous stream of workers who have a vision of Canada for Christ.

This fact, together with all the fine response amongst young Canadians in Sunday Schools, Luther Leagues, conventions and Bible camps holds forth much promise of a growing Lutheran Church in Canada in the coming years.

Canada needs the gospel message that we are saved by faith alone — faith in Jesus as our Savior. The Lutheran Church cherishes this faith. In the past we have kept it very much to ourselves and our own national groups, but with a new generation with a broader Canadian outlook, the light of God's Word must be permitted to reach all who need the light irrespective of nationality or creed. Pray for our church in Canada.

—G. Loken.

THE BOYS' DORMITORY IS WORSE

This spring a visitor came to see the boys' dormitory at Saskatchewan Lutheran Bible Institute, Outlook. He said that he wanted to see if it was

1952 GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

This convention will open Wednesday morning, June 4th, and will close Tuesday, June 10, 1952. It will be held in Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This date should be kept in mind by every activity and every organization within the Church in order that no meeting or convention of any kind be planned during the time of this 1952 General Convention of the Church. This, of course, does not include the auxiliaries which usually meet simultaneously here in Minneapolis.

—A. J. Bergsaker.

as bad as the boys from his area said it was. After the inspection, I asked for his opinion. The terse remark was "It's worse."

Yes, the boys' dorm. is worse. It needs new insides, new ceiling, walls and floor, new wiring, major plumbing and bathroom improvements, new fire escape, refitted windows and window frames plus insulation. (You see the boys' dorm. is always hot on one side and cold on the other depending on the direction of the wind). The dorm. needs paint and furnishings to make it a home away from home.

For two successive years the board of the school has voted \$5,000 to start the job. But the \$5,000 hasn't been there, and so the boys' dorm. is worse.

To those who are concerned, we have this report, "The boys' dorm is worse." Any improvement of this condition is dependent upon money, materials and labor. Who will help the boys' dorm. to improve?? Let's do it now!

—G. Loken, Dean of Men.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Vancouver, B.C.

A very attractive folder reached our desk setting forth the program for the Sixtieth Anniversary Festival held November 12-19, 1950. It contains a rich, history-making and interesting program. Pastor A. H. Solheim serves this congregation. At the afternoon he also brought a message together with local pastors Trygstad, Allen, Haave. Evangelist E. L. Scotvold spoke each evening through the entire festival. On Wednesday Pastor O. K. Blomelie spoke in the afternoon, and on Thursday at the Ladies' Aid meeting. On Saturday afternoon the Rev. Dr. M. A. Dale spoke at the Children's service, and a film was shown.

The closing Sunday, November 19, was a day full of blessing also. Dr. Mars A. Dale spoke at the combined service of the Sunday School and Bible Class at 10.00 a.m. Communion service was held and Dr. Dale spoke at the forenoon service. In the afternoon greetings were brought by Pastors F. Eide, K. O. Kandal, A. O. Aasen, (former pastor) and Dr. Dale.

A banquet was held in the church parlors. This was served by the Ladies' Aid. Throughout the festivities music was furnished by the local choir, Luther League, the Harmony Messengers, the Norse Male Chorus, the Junior Intermediate Luther League, and the Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation. This congregation holds a strategic place. The Lord bless its continued ministry in the years to come.

BENTLEY LUTHER LEAGUE NEWS

On October 21st, the Luther League of Bentley spent a very blessed and enjoyable evening around its first Pocket Testament League banquet table. Supper was served to over 50 persons of which 30 joined the P.T. Movement. The P.T.L. secretary, Helen Frostad, with the very able assistance of her committee arranged a program centred around the Word of God. During the course of a very tasty meal, special readings and musical numbers brought out the need we

have for the constant use of God's Word. We were glad that Student Pastor Curtis Satre could be with us to explain the motives of the P.T.L. and the blessings received by joining this large band of Daily Bible readers.

May God give these new members the needed grace and courage to keep them faithful to their pledge.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

Board of Charities, January 5.
Convention Committee, January 6.
Board of Trustees, January 8.
Pastor's Convocation, January 9 to 12.
Board of Education, January 11, (in the afternoon).
Home Mission Committee, January 12 and 13.

NEWS FROM BETHANY SUNSET HOME

Dear Editor and Staff of The Shepherd:

Being that I am sending in the list of donations since the last of August, I cannot refrain from bringing a greeting and a hearty thank you to our many friends from far and near for their generous support. It is hard to realize that this year is fast drawing to its close. When we stop and look back, we at the Home, especially, have so much to be thankful for. I think of all the Ladies' Aids that have visited us during the year, some of them coming as far as sixty miles. Not only bringing lunch to serve, but also large donations in canned fruit, vegetables, etc., and cash. We always look forward to these visits because the pastors come along and bring a message together with a program by the members of the Aids.

Our hearts overflow with thanks to God for these wonderful friends, and we feel so unworthy of it all.

Then we have the Birthday Club, members of the Local Aid that come every month to serve lunch to the old folks and members of the Ladies' Aid that have a birthday that month. A special table is set for the honored guests and a happy birthday is sung, and a delicious lunch is served to all, furnished by the visiting guests. A social afternoon is spent after lunch, visiting with the old folks and singing songs.

Other highlights to be mentioned are the many pastors and layworkers that have visited us and groups of young people. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the editor and staff of The Shepherd in serving us so well in taking in the donation lists and correspondence. Last but not least, our sincere thanks go out to the board of directors and our Pastor K. C. Grundahl, whom after all carries a great load of responsibility for the welfare of the home.

To all these mentioned and all others who have in some way had a share in making Bethany Home a better place, the staff and guests join in saying a hearty thank you and may God's richest blessing be yours.

A Blessed Christmas Season to you all.

Kindest greetings, yours in the service of the aged,

Sister Marie Wieks. (per I. B.).
P.S.—Several letters, because of wrong addresses, have been returned with receipts which were sent out to different donors for memorials. The names are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Wagner, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Peterson and family, \$2.00; Mr. and Mrs. J. Norby, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. A. Huset and Evelyn, \$1.00.

If anyone reading this and knowing their addresses, would you please let me know. Thank you.—M. Wieks.

Below is a list of donations received by the Home. Unfortunately, it is impossible to print the complete list in this issue but the balance will be published as soon as possible.

NATURA

Visit by Scandia Ladies' Aid. Following donations were left: Fruit, groceries, floteget, lunch and towels.

Amisk Creek, Alberta: The Amisk

Creek Ladies' Aid paid us a visit, Fruit and lunch. Mr. and Mrs. Sakareson, potatoes.

Bawlf, Alberta:

Bawlf Ladies and Mission Aid visited at the Home, brought lunch; Mrs. Wetterberg, lunch; Mr. and Mrs. Ledene, vegetables; E. J. Johnson, fruit and cake.

Bellingham, Washington:

Mrs. Matt. Nordgaard, dish towels.

Camrose, Alberta:

Mrs. T. Hagen, fruit; Mrs. O. Olesberg, fruit; Mrs. Stromberg, fruit and pickles; Dr. Fjordbotten, potatoes, boxes of tonic; Mr. and Mrs. A. Rutz, fresh vegetables; Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Johnson, fruit; Prices' Bakery, buns, roll and flour sacks; Mrs. Arnold Hoveland, cranberries; Mrs. E. J. Fergeson, flowers; Mrs. Arnebuurg, oranges; Mrs. Lomnes, Norwegian books; Mr. Nyback, cream; Mr. Sven Swansn, dish towels and groceries.

Visit by Camrose Lutheran Ladies' Aid: Donation of fruit, preserves, groceries, pudding powders, loaf sugar, icing sugar, raisins, cereal, preserves, coffee, tea, sardines and macaroni. Lunch served for all.

Two dozen oranges, Stella Gunder-son; handworked picture given by Mrs. Fjelheim; second hand linen table cloth, by Miss Anna Solheim; flowers from Mrs. Toeper from Duff Layton's funeral.

Cadagon:

K. J. Kjos, honey; Mrs. N. Stromberg, potatoes.

Donald:

B. J. Stolee, vegetables; Collin, fresh vegetables; Vikse, fresh vegetables; Mrs. Whamand, jam.

Edmonton:

Mrs. Scheidigger, second hand sewing machine, several dresses, scarves and towels; Mrs. Sorenson, second hand clothing; Mr. and Mrs. Wenberg, pickles and fresh vegetables; L.D.R., pillow cases; Mrs. Schubert, vegetables.

Edberg:

Visit by Rosebush Ladies' Aid: Donation of vegetables, groceries and fruit.

Hay Lakes:

Mr. and Mrs. Arntson, grapes.

Holden:

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Pederson, Pickles, fruit and vegetables.

Irma:

T. Larson, carrots; Sivert Nilson, eggs.

Kinistino, Sask.:

Mrs. D. A. Aune, old books, toiletries.

Morrin, Alta.:

Morrin Lutheran Ladies' Aid and congregation, vegetables, fruit, honey and pickles; Mr. P. Notland, potatoes; T. Notland, R. Muler, A. Moen C. Johnson, Chris Olson and Alvin Notland, \$11.00.

Meeting Creek, Alta.:

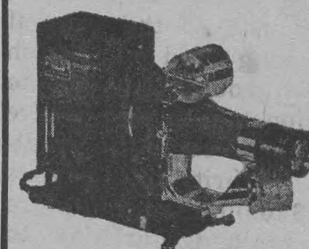
Ed. Bergstroms, chickens.

Melong, Minn., U.S.A.:

Dorcas Circle, Bly Band Lutheran Church, men's wear and dsaving supplies; ladies' wear and candy.

W.M.F. COOK BOOK

Are you looking for a birthday or "shower" gift? Why not give a W.M.F. Cook Book? There are still some to be had, and we urge you all to order your supply NOW. Price is one dollar. Send your order to Miss Clara Haugen, 212 Wiggins Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask.



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YOUNG PEOPLE'S LUTHER LEAGUE

Deadline for material to Y.P.L.L. Editor the 15th of each preceding month

MILTON RUDE, Editor, Luther Seminary, 212 Wiggins Ave., Saskatoon, Sask.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

"But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well." Matt. 6:35. (R.S.V.)

It has been stated that the radius of a life comes from the emphasis in that life. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:21.

Leaguers starting out in life should place the emphasis in the right place in their lives. First things first, in other words. What comes first in our lives? Who has first place? Self or God? The Word of God is very definite in answering this question.

God demands first place. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Duet. 6:5. Jesus demands first place. "He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matt. 10:37. The Kingdom work demands first place. "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations." We should heed Christ's advice and have the correct emphasis in our lives, "His Kingdom and His Righteousness." We have His promise that we will receive all our necessities as well.

How thankful we should be that our Luther League has the right emphasis.

Our aim "To hold and to win young people for Christ," reveals that in our organization we put His Kingdom and His righteousness first not only in our own lives, but in the lives of others also.

—Norman Foster.

"CANADIAN LEAGUERS, ADVANCE"

Who are the Canadian Leaguers?
Why do they want to advance?
How do they want to advance?

First the Canadian Leaguers are all the members of local Leagues in Port Arthur, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and we hope soon to include British Columbia.

The individual leaguers, along with their pastors, work to keep their organizations going ahead, to "Hold and Win Young People for Christ. The local Leagues are organized into Circuits. The Circuit president, along with the Canada District Executive, form the Board that outlines the work to be carried on through Canadian Leaguers' Advance.

Of course we want to advance. If we are not going forward we are slipping back.

"Onward! Onward! ever Onward!

Christ commands, I must obey,
Christ is leading surley onward,
Can I falter on the way?

It is God's will that we should feel a burden for the unsaved souls about us. It is His will that we pray and work that His Kingdom may come among us.

By combining our efforts we can accomplish much more. For example, if one League raised \$45.00 to do some special work, they could hire a parish worker for a month at the present rate of salary being paid our parish worker. But who could they get to work for just one month and where would they put her to serve the greatest need? But if thirty-six Leagues combined their \$45.00, they could hire a consecrated, trained Christian to work for three years in a place where her work would accomplish great things for God. Well, that is just the way we Canadian Leagues plan to advance. That is the way we have been advancing. We have had two parish workers, sponsored by the funds sent in through Canadian

Leaguers' Advance. At present there is only one.

We plan to obtain the services of an evangelist who can travel from place to place preaching the gospel and reaching many who may otherwise not be reached. We help sponsor Bible camps, we have given a scholarship to a graduate of S.L.B.I., who is now attending Luther Seminary in Saskatoon. We organize District conventions where young people can meet from far and near to fellowship around God's Word. We also finance this page in The Shepherd, so Leaguers can have news from all the Leagues. Remember, you are all invited and entitled to make use of this page. Send in news items often. Acts 20:35, "In all things I give you an example, that so laboring ye ought to help the weak," and to remember the Word of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

For Canadian Leaguers' Advance there is no set fee. There is no honor roll given. This is your project to support as much and as often as you can.

Send your donations to your Canada District L.L. treasurer, Isabel Kaldor, 419-11th Street, East, Prince Albert.

—Miss Isabel Kaldor.

OBEDIENCE

No service in itself is small;
None great, though earth it fill;
But that is small that seeks its own
And great that seeks God's will.

Then hold my hand, most gracious God,
Guide all my goings still;
And let it be my life's one aim,
To know and do thy will.

THE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

"And all went to enroll themselves everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee."—Luke 2:3, 4a.

Imagine it, every place I go, whether in a store or on the street, there is a crowd of people. It seems as though everyone has come to town. There are familiar faces here and there as each one has come here to his own business town. But don't you know, they are here making their important purchases for Christmas. So many things need to be bought and so many preparations must be made. So during these days one can hardly move downtown.

A similar scene took place nearly two thousand years ago just a few days before the first Christmas. Everyone had come to town to the town of Bethlehem. Places were crowded and it was difficult for those who had travelled far to find room to stay. However, these people came for a different purpose than that of preparing for Christmas. They came each one to his own city, to be enrolled because of the decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

That was a few days before an important event, which was to change the course of history, but more important, to change the lives of sinners. Those of long ago had gathered because of a decree, never realizing that a Saviour was to be born. They were busy talking and arguing. It was a worldly crowd.

Come with me away from the shifting and restless crowd to a lowly stable inn. As we look in we see Mary and Joseph with heads bowed. Before them is the Christ child lying in a manger. What a radiant glow we see on this sweet babe! But think with Mary and Joseph. This child is to the Saviour of the world; to bring peace and joy to the hearts of men. It is such

a contrast to the busy crowd outside. We love it there in the presence of Christ and are content to remain.

But the reality of life calls us back. We are again faced with the preparations that are so necessary for this Christmas. There is work to be done! Baking to be finished! Programs to prepare! Trimmings to be hung! Gifts to buy! So we rush down town, frantically trying to purchase our gifts and dainties. Somehow we become aware that we are among a crowd that is the same as the crowd that was in Bethlehem "before the first Christmas." Ah, it is this; most of them don't realize the meaning of Christmas. Oh, of course, they are going to celebrate because it is the custom or decree. But really are we much different? Perhaps we, too, lose the blessing of Christmas because we are like the crowd and forget about the Christ who came!

Lest we forget, let each one of us these days before Christmas step aside from the rush and see if we have the peace and quietness of the indwelling Saviour. Let us in quietness and penitence seek what Jesus meant to bring us; that forgiveness, and along with this — a peaceful assurance of His presence in the midst of a restless world. In so doing each day, we will make the best preparation for Christmas. Thus the meaning of the birth of the Christ Child will become real for us. Our Christmas preparations will have greater significance. Remember, Joseph and Mary, too, needed to go into the busy city, but they found a quiet resting place. Cannot we do the same as we approach this Christmas season??

SASKATOON CIRCUIT LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

"Triumphant in Christ," was the theme for the Saskatoon Circuit Luther League convention held at Saskatchewan River Church near Outlook on November 4th and 5th.

Professor Nehrenz of the Lutheran College and Seminary, Saskatoon brought three very challenging messages. Bible studies were led by Student Pastor Howie Olson.

In the first message by our guest speaker we were faced with the question, "What are you living for?" It caused us to pause and examine ourselves to see if we could answer with Paul, "For me to live is Christ."

The film, "Let Christ be Lord," was shown Saturday evening.

Before the service Sunday morning a Communion service was held for those desiring to take part. Our speaker again faced us with a very stirring question in his message Sunday morning. He asked, "Has God been wasting His time on us?"

Preceding the first session on Sunday afternoon, Albert Olson led in a brief hymn-sing. Our District Pocket Testament League Secretary, Miss Jorgine Salte brought a greeting to the convention and pointed out a few facts about the P.T.L.

In his closing message, Professor Nehrenz likened a Christian to a light — a light in the window that strangers groping in the darkness of sin can see and therefore make their way home to Christ. He mentioned some of the bushel-baskets that we as Christians try to hide our light under, such as fear, shame, neglect, selfishness and laziness. But instead of hiding our light, let us put it on a candlestick that men may see it.

Officers elected for the coming year are as follows: President, Howie, Olson (Saskatoon); vice-president, Eugene Anderson (Langham); recording secretary, Edith Vinge, (Outlook); corresponding secretary, Marion Erlandson (Outlook); treasurer,

Adolph Dahlen (Valley Park); and P.T.L. Tract Club secretary, Fern Nelson (Saskatoon).

Our convention closed with prayer.
—Fern Nelson.

SOUTHERN ALBERTA CIRCUIT LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

The Southern Alberta Circuit Luther League met for their fall convention at Claresholm, Alberta on October 20-22 under the theme, "Behold Christ Crucified." The guest speaker was Pastor Sterling Johnson.

The opening service began with a singspiration led by Pastor S. T. Jacobsen of Milo, after which Joy Transdale, president of Sharon Luther League of Claresholm, extended a warm welcome to the convention, responded to by Tryg Skretting, president of the Circuit. A nominating committee was chosen, followed by an offering for "Youth in Action." Pastor Johnson then gave his first message on "Behold Christ Crucified for you and believe that He died to atone."

Saturday morning H. Holte of Bow Island led the prayer service followed by a Bible Study with Pastor Jacobsen in charge. All the Bible studies were based on Romans 8. The following officers were elected: President, Tryg Skretting, Enchant; vice-president, Orlan Berg, Claresholm; recording secretary, Mervin Christensen, Claresholm; treasurer, Wilma Skippen, Calgary; corresponding secretary, P.T.L. secretary, Tract Club secretary, Maxine Wietz, Milo.

Saturday afternoon was a social afternoon together with a P.T.L. program, with Mrs. S. T. Jacobsen in charge. Pastor Johnson gave a fine message, a P.T.L. film, "Toward Bold Endeavor," was shown, and a few new members signed their pledge.

Saturday evening Miss Vinge of the Sunday School at Home staff, gave a brief message, after which two films were shown, "The Saskatoon Story" and "Daniel in the Lion's Den." Pastor Jacobsen again led in a singspiration, followed by an offering for "Canadian Leaguers' Advance." Pastor Johnson's evening message was "Behold Christ Crucified for you and Believe that He Arose to Forgive."

Following the Communion service was morning worship. Pastor Johnson's message was, "Behold Christ Crucified for You and Believe that He Lives to Indwell." The Sharon L.L. choir led by Wayne Berg rendered two numbers.

In the afternoon after the Bible Study the topics given were under the theme, "Behold Christ Crucified, then Decide," — (1) About Your Friends, Wilma Skippen, Calgary; (2) About Your Life Work, Shirley Orsten, Scandia. A discussion led by Mr. Henry Holte followed each topic. Then four leaguers took part in an oratorical contest, and Janet Matson of Claresholm was declared the winner by the judges. Pastor Jacobsen then installed the Circuit officers.

Sunday evening the "Saskatoon Story" was again shown. After a singspiration the winning oration was given. The evening message by Pastor Johnson was "Behold Christ Crucified for You and Believe that He Will Return to Judge." This was a very stirring and heart searching message, as we heard the judgment upon who will not believe.

We are thankful to God for the Knowledge that God is still calling men and women to Himself through Jesus, and that His grace is sufficient to cover any sin.

During the week that followed the convention Pastor Johnson remained and held services each evening. The Holy Spirit moved strongly and a number of souls found peace with God. Praise His Name!

—Recording Secretary,
Mervin A. Christensen.

Our Lord suffers more at the hands of His lukewarm friends than from mobs that burn churches.—Sander.